THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Calcuta High Court has restrained, till certain conditions are fulfilled, Government from leasing in perpetuity to Bangladesh a corridor to connect the Dahagram enclave of Bangladesh with the Panbari Mouza in Bangladesh. This corridor includes part of the Upanchowki Kuchlibari Monza.

(b) A Special Leave Petition against the judgement has been filed by Government in the Supreme Court.

Publication of P.M.'s Interview in the 'Penthouse' Magazine of USA

1070. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently lodged any protest with the 'Penthouse' magazine of the United States for publishing P.M.'s interview;

(b) if so, what led Government to lodge this protest; and

(c) what was the response of the Editor and the Publisher of the magazine to this protest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) An interview was granted by the Prime Minister to Mr. Rus el Warren Howe for use in a book that Mr. Howe stated he was writing on "Statesmanship in the Twentieth Century". However, the Journalist made unauthorised use of the interview and released it for publication in the Penthouse magazine. The Embassy of India, Washington, has written to the Editor and Publisher of the Penthouse magazine as well as to Mr. Russel Warren Howe pointnig out the clear breach of journalistic ethics and norms involved in using the interview for publication in Penthouse magazine. The Embassy further called on the magazine to publish the Embassy's communication on the subject in its forthcoming issue to bring out the breach of ethics and norms involved. The Embassy has been given to understand by the Editor that its letter would be published in the November 1987 issue of the magazine.

Purchase of DAP by MMTC

1071. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MMTC had floated tenders for the purchase of 100,000 tonnes of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) in 1984;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract was given to a firm which had quoted the lowest rate; and

(d) if not, at what rate the contract was given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In all 20 offers were received covering a quantity of more than 4 lakh tonnes. Among the valid offers the lowest offer was at price of $ 188.20 per metric tonne.

(c) and (d) Order was placed after negotiations at the rate of US $ 182/- per MT FOB bulk US port. The party which had quoted earlier at $ 188.20 did not agree to reduce its price to the above level during the negotiations. No order was, therefore, placed on it.